Historical Monuments of Gujarat

1947. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of historical monuments in Gujarat which have been identfied as International/National heritage sites;

(b) whether some of them are in a neglect state, as necessary protection is not being provided by the Archaeclogical Survey of India to them;

(c) if so, the details of such monuments; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect such rich heritage in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The monuments in Gujarat which have been declared as monument of national importance under the Archaeological Survey of India is given in the annexure. [See Appendix 186 Annexure no. 34] There is no World Heritage site as recognised by the UNESCO in Gujarat.

(b) to (d) The nationally protected monuments under the A.S.I. are not in any neglected state of protection and are maintained and conserved as per their requirments subject to the availability of resources.

Drop-out of Students

1948. SHRI ONWARD L. HONG-TDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale drop-out of students at the Lower Primary stage in rural areas and the social problems there;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons for such drop-out "and the efforts made so far to check it;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to create more posts of qualified techers for the Lower Primary stage of education; and

(d) if not, whether Government are proposing to recognize all the private Primary Schools having good results?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to available information, the drop-out rate of children in Classes I to V for the year 1996-97 is 38.95.

According to the 42nd Round of National Sample Survey, the main reasons for rural children dropping out from school include economic constraints, lack of interest in education and further studies, domestic chores, gender discrimination and failure.

The measures to contain dropouts include improving physical infrastructure of schools, provision of teaching learning equipment, scholarship and incentives to children from weaker sections of society and girls, regular training of teachers, a contextually relevant curriculum and greater involvment of parents and local communities in the functioning of schools.

(c) Under the Scheme of Operation Blackboard, this Department has sanctioned 1.49 lakh posts of additional teachers in single teacher primary schools in various States. Another 55, 951 posts of third teachers have been sanctioned in primary schools with enrolment exceeding 100 children.

(d) Recognition to private schools is granted by State Governments in accordance with rules and regulations formulated for this purpose.